THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The judgement of the Supreme Court dated 27th October, 1987 deals with regularisation of daily rated casual labour and is not applicable to ED employees.

**Payment of House rent allowance to ED Post Masters**

3247. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pltased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give house rent allowance to ED Branch Post Masters for providing accommodation for opening a branch Post Office in villages; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Branch Post Masters are entitled to Rs. 25/- per month as Office Maintenance Allowance. This allowance takes care of the element of rent for the Branch Post Office.

**Recognition of extra-departmental employees' union**

3248. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for Extra Departmental Employees had recommended recognition of the ED Union consisting of all ED employees taken together; if so, what follow-up action has been taken in this regard;

(b) whether the ED employees are covered under the Departmental Council Scheme; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any other forum to consider the problems of about 3 lakh ED employees;

(d) whether it is a fact that the ED employees constitute about half of the total Postal employees; and

(e) whether Government propose to create a separate cell in the Postal Department for the betterment of rural postal service and also to improve the service conditions of ED employees; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The scheme of joint consultative machinery applicable to the general class of Central Govt. Employees does not cover Extra Departmental Employees of the Department of Posts. However, recognised unions representing the Extra Departmental Employees are extended the facility of monthly meetings at the Division level besides quarterly meetings at the circle level. Periodical meetings are also held at the level of the Directorate. The Committee on Extra Departmental System has recommended that the facility of special casual leave granted to office bearers of recognised union of Govt. Employees for attending meetings with the officials at different levels may also be extended to the Extra Departmental Employee subject to the condition that there is a single association for all the Extra Departmental Employees taken together as a category.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

**ED Mail-men in Delhi RMS Division**

3249. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is he number of ED mail-men working a New Delhi RMS Division; and

(b) what is the amount of compensation paid to the ED mail-men every month during 1987-88 and so far during the current year on their detention beyond 5 hours per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a)